# A Monstrous Birth:

OR, A True

# RELATION

OF

Three strange and prodigious Things like young Cats, all speckled, which came from a woman dwelling at *Watton* in *Yorkshire*:

AND

How the Devil kept her Company.

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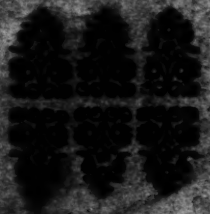
The Relation of the Thing is taken out of a Letter which a Gentleman dwelling neer the place lately wrote to a friend of his in *London*.



*LONDON*,
Printed for *Edward Chapman*, at the Crown in Pope's-head-alley. 1657.

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[illegible]

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# A Monstrous Birth:

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## A true Relation, &c.

I Know it will be judged by many (and possibly judicious) a very unseasonable work in such a day as this, to talk of *Wonders*, especially of *Monstrous things*; considering how *Gods Judgments* are now far above out of mens sight; and they are ready to say, What is the Almighty, that we should regard him? Nevertheless seeing it is the Lords minde, that his speakings to us every way should be heeded, I have thought it my duty (whether men will hear or not)

truly to relate a memorable thing lately fallen out.

I could instance many examples of the like kind in former time; namely, *strange and prodigious births*, as among the *Jews*, a little before *Jerusalem* was taken by the *Romans*; so in *France*, *Spaine*, *Germany*, and often in this Nation; upon which there soon followed some great and eminent Change. But these things are so well known, as I shall let them passe, and come to the Story.

In *Yorke-shire* there is a certain Village called *Wetwan*, lying about five or six Miles from *Beverly*: in this place dwells a poor labouring-man, whose wife by the neighbours was judged to be with childe; her belly being swollen, as it is with women in that case. But before her delivery, she fell distracted, and in a very sore and grievous manner. Now her husband understanding of one dwelling further North, that had cured other persons so tormented, sent for him: who came accordingly. The woman seeing him, told him, he would poyson her. He answered, No: But would destroy those

 things

things in her which was the cause of her madnesse: whereupon, he gives her something to take; what it was I know not. But no sooner had she taken the potion, but there came out of her three Monstrous things, all speckled, and like unto young Cats. Those she put to her breasts; but they all dyed, and the woman remains still distracted as before.

The poor man being much troubled and affected with this prodigious and sad spectacle, made Relation of something concerning his wife; and very likely had it not been for this occasion, would have conceal'd it. And it was thus: going to bed sometimes before his wife, leaving her a spinning. When she came to bed, she would tell him in his absence that she had played at Cards with the Devil, and had found him one of the fairest Gamesters that ever she met with.

For the application of this matter, I shall leave it wholly to the considerate Reader, not presuming to put my sence upon it. Onely this I think I may safely say: Surely God intendeth some thing by it, and it is

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a *making work*: and the rather, because when such strange and prodigious things have fallen out, the Lords displeasure hath soon after broken forth very terribly.

In conclusion three things I shall add:

1. There have been within these *three years and an half*, more strange, unusual and unheard-of things, then in many years before: and this is not for nothing. It were well if the true causes were considered.

2. Many strange things of late have fallen out in the North; some of them have been published, as great Armies seen in the Air: But there have been others seen in them parts (and as strange and dreadful,) which were never published. Indeed the Scrip-

Scripture ſpeaks, That in the North the Lord will begin his work againſt Babylon in the laſt dayes. *Jer.*50.3, 9,30.

3. Beſides that great deſtruction of houſes which happened about *Wapping* the third day of this month, 1657. there was a ſore fire at *Hedden* in Yorke-ſhire, four miles from *Hull*, which conſumed about fifty houſes; and this was the fourth day, even the very next day after.

Theſe two dayes will not (I ſuppoſe) be forgotten in England, conſidering what was done the day before.

FINIS.